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A Dissertation on Dysentery

By

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Dysentery-

The term dysentery, designates a disease attended with the following symptoms.

It usually commences, with a chill, succeeded by heat on the surface, of the body, and accompanied, with considerable disorder of the stomach, and bowels, as nausea, vomiting, and flatulence. The patient soon feels very painful, and severe griping, and voids frequently by stool, a slimy mucus, commonly streaked with blood. This appearance of the alvine evacuation, is supposed to afford, a tolerably certain indication, relative to the seat, of the disease. When there are, only streaks of blood, in the mucus, the lower part, of the intestinal canal is most affected: but when the blood is commingled, with the faeces, it is considered an evidence, that the disease is seated higher, in the canal. - The discharge goes on

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for some time, previous to the appearance of natural faeces. When these do appear they are under the form of small, compact, hard, substances denominated scybala, which being evacuated the patient experiences some respite from pain.

Together with the appearances already mentioned, there are often discovered in the evacuations, substances resembling pieces of cheese. The stools have a peculiarly fetid odour, which towards the close of the disease becomes intolerably offensive.

These symptoms are generally followed by a distressing Tenismus, or a frequent desire to go to stool with an inability to discharge any thing. This was once supposed to be caused exclusively, by ulceration, in the rectum. but it is certain that irritation of any kind in the rectum will produce it, and moreover the ulceration is accidental, and not at all essential to the disease.

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- Strangury, is sometimes, a symptom of dysentery it is caused probably, by the neck of the bladder participating in the inflammation, affecting the intestines.

These are the usual symptoms, attendant, on dysentery; but if its progress is not interrupted these symptoms become more aggravated, and it assumes others of a more dangerous aspect, as cold extremities, tension of the abdomen. Petechiae, great prostration of strength, with a small, and feeble pulse - The discharge from the Rectum is at this stage, much altered in appearance, resembling now the washings of flesh - these symptoms may be considered precursors, of approaching disolution, and demand the most prompt, and persevering attention, of the Physician, to check their progress.

There is sometimes, little or no discharge in this disease. This is ascribed to the inflammation being so great as to transcend the point, of

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secretory action. This accords with the opinion, of Mr. Ramsden, as regards the manner in which a radical cure, is effected in Hydrocele, without an obliteration of the Sac. We also sometimes see it the case in Gonorrhoea.

When the disease, is to terminate fatally, there is often, previous to death, a total exemption from pain, & suffering.

The Dysentery, usually occurs, at the same seasons of the year, and in those situations, in which Intermittent, and Remittent fevers are most prevalent. From this circumstance, and from its occasionally assuming, the epidemic character we may with great propriety, attribute its principal cause, to Marsh Miasmata. In the low marshy situations of the South, I have often seen symptoms, characteristic of the existence, of Dysentery and Malarious fever, present at the same time.

But in enumerating the causes of Dysentery, we should not entirely overlook the sensible

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production of the inflammation, and the progress of
the disease is marked by the following signs: the
cold, with suppuration, forms the disease.

The symptoms, however, to be removed, there is what
is known as the disease, or the inflammation, which
is subject to the most violent course of acute disease,
and sudden transitions from heat to cold. These
symptoms are sometimes accompanied by the inflammation
of the lungs, and the disease is then more severe.

The inflammation is now considered as a disease, and
even at the present day the opinion is not without
support. The disease is sometimes, and the disease
is now, however, in some cases of acute disease, and
is thought to be sometimes, ^{in some} cases, the disease
is the disease, and the disease is the disease,
as it is a inflammation, both with the result of a disease
and sound pathology. In the first place we have
the almost absolute & complete, and resolution
will not admit this, even when the disease and
finally, were we to allow it, the disease and

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In the disease, it seems to be diminished in the course,
from which it follows that a very low, or even lower
relation to the disease than in the case of the
tumour. It is, then, it seems to be the case, that
the inflammation, in connection with a vessel of
circulation, may be of a different kind, but in no other
respect do we believe it ever to be so. In the case
he it forms a consolidation, rather than a tumour,
than of disease.

1895 regards the seat of the disease, the appearance
of the lesion is usually given that it was an
inflammation, as pointed out in the large collection, was
in the early stage, but it is, situated
in the inside and outside of the vessel, or
permeable and continuous. But it is true
the progress of the disease, from its commencement
and we must be careful to avoid, with much probability,
to attribute the disease to a tumour, or to
any other apparatus. The more common, even more
probability, of the disease, is the most probable.

[illegible]

known, viz. situation of the stomach, corroborates the opinion, that the stomach is the primary seat of dyspepsia, and, that the disease derives its origin, from the stomach, through the intestinal system.

The Hepatic system, particularly is concerned, in the ravages of this disease. The wasted & discolored appearance of the Liver has long been what could be expected from disease, and it is not until the countenance, to this opinion. On this account, it has been alledged, that the liver is the primary seat, of Dyspepsia. But with some qualifications we might attribute the effects of the disease, to a derangement, of any other of the abdominal viscera, as the Spleen, Pancreas, and even the Kidneys. we sometimes find in a very disordered condition

— Treatment. In many cases we have a notion, of the nature and causes of dyspepsia, the time of treatment, becomes obvious. It is usually, in the



in the treatment with venesection. Bleeding
is not advised in the acute stage, but it
is a valuable resource, if the system can
bear it, and is resorted to in the case of other
diseases. There is a caution, however, against its
use in obstructions, as it is not a general rule
that will bear it, or even admit that it is a sym-
ptom in every condition and stage, or in every.

The pulse, together with the usual symptoms
are in the use of the lancet, must be strictly
attended to. Whenever there is full pulse
but skin, viscid & insensible perspiration of the
abdomen &c. bleeding becomes well bearing
and pure. It is collected from one ~~rule~~ rule
as the quantity is taken, as the first hour will
be used in regulated by the circumstances of the
case in the quantity is deducted at each blea-
ding, and also in the repetition of it. When how-
ever the above symptoms occur, venesection
should never be omitted for a second day.

[illegible]

ground is not an interest. The result, of
the course for the present, but has considerable
effect, on the subsequent progress.—

The gastric uneasiness, by which the purgation
is usually ushered in, seems to justify the
administration of Emetics, in its early stages. This
practice, was, I believe first taught by the
great Sydenham, whose example, has since
been pretty generally followed.

In most of the cases of dyspepsia, which have
come under my observation, in which chronic
dyspeptic diseases, Emetics have been
found eminently serviceable. They relieve
the pressure of the food, & otherwise matter
so distressing, and are likewise instrumental
in producing that determination, to the
surface which is so great a dislocation, in
the management of Dyspepsia. My intention
is not however to recommend this as a com-
mon case of dyspepsia, on the contrary, I am convinced

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in some cases they are totally inadmissible
- at least imprudent. For the Southern District
of New York, the practice relative to the disease
is strongly protracted; and a course sometimes
is persistently maintained. —

In the management of the disease it is the
almost consequence, that the local action, founded
on irritation of the stomach is continually
lost in view, and that the most irritating
discharge which can issue from it, has a tendency
to become and aggravate the inflammation.
We cannot therefore expect to have relief until
the exit is facilitated. For the morbid
effluvia are incessantly called into remem-
brance. It seems now to be an established rule,
that the incision should be made and until
the discharge becomes profuse, or more so.
Nothing, not even Opium itself relieves the
gripping so effectively as a judicious use of me-
ging — This might seem to be said in



all manner of things, and the author is
 not at all satisfied, as he is at present a great
 quantity, but will the quantity of things, directly
 against in the hands - The whole does
 not seem very strongly recommended. There
 the house is not needed, but some of
 the money, the volume was under the
 year, and it is not in such cases, that it should
 be the end to be achieved.

However, in the meantime, I have been
 ever after, perhaps, in the past, the author
 for which, perhaps, as well as the author.
 It is not, perhaps, a true and real value, the
 author, with which, I am, perhaps, more
 on this account is particularly significant
 the does not seem to be the same. The subject
 is not, perhaps, as the same, since there
 are evidence of a larger state of the author's
 future - The business, however, is not
 at all, as a continuation with the author, at the



some have found that the operation of mercury
is a mild emetic.

When the irritative action of the alimentary
canal has been in the case now considered,
the matter now may be used with considerable
more advantage than in the case of the disease.
The purgative is now to be continued until the
stool is soft, & the patient is comfortable
until the discharge becomes natural.

When we have proposed this for the
treatment of the disease, I suppose we may
expect results in. They are slight instruments
in nature, and falling a great step to the
stage of the disease. But at the same time it may
be said prior to this is before the mercury
operations have been made, is in fact, rather
more, than before the report of the mercury.

The purgative is a combination of the
mercurial, & a combination of the
mercurial, in the following proportions -

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to, with considerable advantage. The best mode of administering it, is in the form of a suppository.

A decoction of rice, with Laudanum, is an excellent injection in Tenismus. Nothing however affords so much relief in these cases, as an injection of about $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of fresh melted butter. It is far more grateful, and less irritating, than any other injection used for the purpose. It may be repeated every third or fourth hour, or as often as occasion may require.

It is with extreme diffidence, that I submit this imperfect sketch of the nature, and treatment, of Dysentery, to the examination of the Gentlemen, of the Medical Faculty. I am sure however, they will make every necessary allowance for its defects, when they are informed that it is the production of a mind, not matured by age, or tutored by experience; and that no exertion has been spared, to meet their approbation —



